

Message Text

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SUBJ: PRESS CONFERENCE BY NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

1. AHAM REPORTS ON PAGE 2 THAT KIM BYONG HO, AMB OF NORTH KOREA, HELD APRESS CONFERENCE AUG 24 IN WHICH HE EXPLAINED DIMENSIONS OF "EXPLOSIVE SITUATION" ALONG BORDERS OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. AMB SAID IF US INTENDS TO WORK TO BRING ABOUT PEACE, IT MUSH WORK FOR THE EVACUATION OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES FROM SOUTH KOREA.

2. PRESS CONFERENCE COVERED AS PART OF LONG STORY ON SITUATION ON BORDERS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA DID NOT REPORT PRESS CONFERENCE.

3. IN AHAM EDITORIAL ENTITLED "WAR OF THE TREE. WILL IT BECOME THIRD CHAPTER IN KOREAN TRAGEDY"? EDITORIAL WRITER MUHAMMAD ABDUL MONEIM WRITES: "IF MATTERS CONTINUE AT PRESENT TEMPO, WE ARE ABOUT TO SEE NEW WAR BREAK OUT BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA. AMERICAN FORCES STATIONED IN AREA ARE NOW MOVING QUICKLY TO TAKE FIGHTING POSITIONS ON LANG, SEA AND AIR. IN ALL PROBABILITY, WAR WILL BE CALLED THIS TIME, "WAR OF THE TREE." THIS HORRIBLE CLIMATE OF NEW DESTRUCTIVE WAR RESULTED FROM A TREE, BECAUSE ON OF ENTHUS-
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IASTIC MILITARY MEN TRIMMED IT BECAUSE IT PREVENTS OBSER-

VATION POINTS IN SOUTH KOREA FROM KEEPING AN EYE ON THE OTHER SIDE.

'THIS TREE HAPPENED TO BE IN PANMUNJOM, WHERE THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED 23 YEARS AGO. VIOLATIONS OF AGREEMENT HAVE REACHED MORE THAN 136.900 WHICH CHIEFLY INCLUDE CAPTURE OF AMERICAN SYP SHIP ON 23 JAN 1968, WHEN THIS ELECTRONIC FORTRESS DREW CLOSE TO NORTH KOREAN COASTS.

'HE WHO VISITS THIS HISTORICAL VILLAGE FEELS AT ONE UNUSUAL ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILS BECAUSE BOTH SIDES ARE FULLY ALERT AND EACH TRIES TO PROVOKE THE OTHER. THEREFORE, AN INCIDENT IS LIABLE TO HAPPEN AT ANY MOMENT. IT IS FORTUNATE THAT NONE OF THE CLEVER MILITARY POLICE USED FIREARMS DURING THIS BATTLE, BECAUSE IF ONE BULLET WAS FIRED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY THOUSANDS OF BOMBSHELLS FROM THE HEAVY WEAPONS HIDDEN EVERYWHERE ON BOTH SIDES.

'NATURALLY THIS STATE CANNOT STAY LONG. IF WE ADD TO THIS THE RECENT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM, AND THE FAILURE OF THE VIETNAMIZATION POLICY, THE CHANCES OF SETTLEMENT APPEAR COMPLICATED AND DIM. THE MOUNTING MIGHT CURRENT AMONG THE NORTH KOREAN PEOPLE FOR REUNIFICATION AND RESPONSE BY MANY ELEMENTS IN SOUTH KOREA INCREASES THE GRAVITY OF SITUATION.

'ALL THESE FACTORS PLACE US BEFORE A VICIOUS CIRCLE. WHAT NOBODY CAN ACCEPT IS TO SEE THOUSANDS OF PERSONS FROM THE SAME PEOPLE DIE FOR THE SAKE OF A TREE BECAUSE ONE OF THE PHILOSOPHERS OF TACTICS SAID THAT IT BLOCKS VISION. THE KOREAN PEOPLE STILL SUFFER FROM THEIR FIRST WAR. THE PARTITION DECISION REPRESENTED THE SECOND CHAPTER OF THE KOREAN TRAGEDY. BUT ALL THIS CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH EVENTS OF THE THIRD AND LAST CHAPTER IF ARMED WAR TURNS OUT TO BE SOLE SOLUTION, ESPECIALLY IF NEW WAR BREAKS OUT BECAUSE OF THIS BLASTED TREE.'

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